

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting for Raccoon Creek Partnership

Meeting Minutes for 3/31/2011

Attendees: Amy Mackey, Brian Blair, Kelly Capuzzi, Mike McAvoy, Natalie Kruse, Ben McCament, Mary Ann Borch, Sarah Landers, Kara Walton

Begin meeting – Welcome, introductions

-Meeting Began at 9:15am

-Amy went over last meeting's minutes and they were approved.

Watershed Coordinator Update

-28,000 tires have been taken out of the watershed so far by the EPA program. Want to get together tires from around Flint Run and Lake Milton for pick up, estimated 600 tires.

-Amy submitted grants for Orland and West Branch Harle Griffith Ph. 1.

-Ohio Valley RC&D got RCP a new projector, YSI meter, and groundwater model with grant funds through NRC S.

-Jen Bowman is currently working on 2010 NPS report. Amy will be helping enter 2010 Raccoon Creek project info.

-Division of Wildlife database for MAIS data is finished.

-Spring Newsletters have been sent out.

-Amy and Brian are teaching chemical water quality sampling at Hocking College on April 8th and doing an electrofishing demo for Natalie's Watershed Management class in May.

-Little Raccoon Creek AMDAT revision will be worked on this summer. DMRM intern will assist.

-ODNR summer internship and AmeriCorps positions have been posted and applications are currently being accepted (see website www.raccooncreek.org for more details).

-Amy gave update of Kim Brewster's Middleton Run project since she could not be in attendance. Kim completed last set of sampling on March 14th and is using the recon. information to put together her final report. She will give her final presentation

soon but is willing to keep working on the project in the future. Presentation date and info will be sent to T A C as soon as it is available.

AmeriCorps Updates

- Apple Grafting Workshop Saturday April 2nd
- Family Fun Day with fishing and archery Saturday April 9th.
- Raccoon Creek Water Trail Association (RCWTA) has a float scheduled for May 1st.
- RCP received an Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) Minigrant to help fund summer camps this year. The camp dates are June 20-24 for kids ages 7 and up and August 1-5 for kids entering 6th grade and up.
- RCP Education Committee meeting will be scheduled for sometime in April. Watch for emails!
- Sarah attended a conference on service and volunteerism in Columbus and Kara attended the regional Geological Society of America meeting in Pittsburgh this month.
- Kelly Capuzzi mentioned an interest in giving a headwaters habitat training. She will send out an email.
- Lease for the Waterloo Aquatic Education Center has been renewed for another 5 years, so we currently have the building for at least 8 more years.

RC Water Quality Specialist Updates

- 2011 sampling plans completed and were sent out for edits and suggestions. Biological sampling plan out as well.
- Did Middle Basin long term monitoring and got excellent high flow. Flows had to be estimated though.
- Trying to get a lot of Harble Griffith Ph. 1 preconstruction sampling done.
- Planning to go out to East Branch Ph. 2 sites for post construction sampling.
- Lake Milton currently working well. It had a valve failure that drained the lake but it is now fixed. Lake filled up again with all of the rain recently. There has been some trouble regulating flow through the skimmer. Decided a new notch is needed, and will try and do this over the summer. Currently 100 gal/min. of flow out of the slag bed.

-The pH coming out of Hothouse Lake is hovering around a 4.0. An alkalinity test was done of the slag with a result of 280 mg/l. This seems low but is good for the age of the bed.

2010 Water Quality Annual Report

-Brian is currently finishing up the Raccoon Creek Water Quality Analysis Report for 2010 and will send it out once finished!

Lake Milton SLB /Lime Addition Update

-Lime being added about once a week to get pH up at Hothouse.

-Even during high flow the slab bed is not providing enough treatment. It needs to be decided what to do for maintenance.

-More monitoring is required to see if seasonal adjustments need to be made.

-Decided to core into the slag bed to see if the slag is being equally degraded throughout. We may only need to replace the slag in certain locations and not the entire bed. A map will be put together showing where we have good and bad zones. Shaker tests will be performed. Natalie will primarily work on this! **This needs to be done before the end of April!**

-Mike needs the data from the slag bed before or on May 5th so that he can develop a maintenance plan.

-It was suggested that we need to change our sampling plan for Flint Run and Lake Milton to account for seasonal variations.

2011 Biological Sampling

-26 MAIS sites will be sampled this year, less than previous years.

-16 fish sites will be sampled this year. Ben wants to do 6 boat sites, 4 on Little Raccoon Creek and 2 in the headwaters.

-The mouth of Hewett Fork is now a boat site.

-It is doubtful we will have our own boat this season so we will have to borrow one or contract the sites out. Ben will look into options. May be able to get a boat from EPA for sampling in mid June as they will not be using it until July.

Mulga Run AML enhancement sampling

-Kaabe put together a report and there is still a possibility of doing this project.

-Some coal companies are interested in working on the project, however the study showed that it would not be worth it because the sites are not a big enough acid loader to the creek.

-Kaabe will talk more about this topic at the next meeting!

Current and upcoming A MD Project updates

-Harble Griffith design is complete. Pre-bid will be held on site May 4th, \$1.5 million project. Start of construction planned for mid July and should finish in 50 days.

-ODNR has some safety issues with the upcoming dam/valve repair at Lake Milton. RCP staff may get safety training so that they are protected when working with the valves. Also may include additional bunker on site to store safety equipment.

-The slag will be swapped out at Flint Run this year as part of its maintenance.

-Sand filter needs fixed at East Branch Ph. 2 site. Sand will be replaced at the end of summer.

-East Branch Ph. 3 project is 97% completed. A leak was found in the slag bed and it will be fixed soon. Bed is turned on and running now to take advantage of spring high flows.

-Jeff Brown walked the Orland project site and will have his report ready soon.

-Information for the Harble Griffith 319 Grant project is now up on the RCP website. A pre-construction tour needs to be planned and it will likely be in the summer during construction.

-Extra sampling needs to be done at Harble Griffith Ph. 2 sites.

-Project for Lake Latrobe will be designed this summer.

-The Flint Run wetland and Middleton Run projects also need to be designed this summer.

-Kaabe needs to survey Lake Latrobe to get some other depth readings.

-Mike wants to have Middleton Run design completed between August and December 2011. Middleton Run probably going to be a multi phase project. The design needs to be wrapped up by January 2012 so that work can begin that April.

A E P project updates

-Finished year 1 of sampling, completed 3rd full set of samples which are done quarterly.

-Need to get more people on board to get biological and chemical data together.

-Another round of requests for funds from AEP is being put together. Want to get an electrofishing boat to go along with the Boat of Knowledge, and more research funds.

Announcements

-RCP t-shirt fundraiser: order will be put in next week so get your orders in!
-Jen had a question about Middleton Run sampling sites for the NPS report. Only one round of sampling was done in 2010. Mary Ann said that she was unable to get a fall sample. Brian will learn these sites from Mary Ann and begin sampling there. Jen also wondered which site we should use to evaluate the Middleton Run Salem Road project. Several different sites were used in the past and we need to decide on a consistent site for the future. Also need to be able to evaluate the Salem Road project independently from the new (2012) Kiser Rd. site.

Next Meeting will be June 9th at the Athens ODNR office at 9am!!